

NATO PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE TRUST FUND PROJECT IN ALBANIA – GENERATING EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN

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The NATO Partnership for Peace Trust Fund has sponsored two projects in Albania. The first project successfully destroyed the Albanian Armed Forces inventory of anti-personnel mines. The second project for the demilitarization of Small Arms and Light Weapons Ammunition is scheduled for completion in December 2007. These projects have been a steady source of employment for Albanians. The second project is currently employing in excess of 160 Albanians at the explosive factory ULP Mjekës, at the ammunition factory KM Poliçan and throughout Albania where ammunition is being repacked by the National Demilitarization Centre.

At a time when the Albanian Armed Forces are downsizing, the NATO PFP projects have been providing employment to ex-military members.

What is not so well known however is the number of employment these projects provided and still provides to women. Of the 132 jobs generated by the current NATO PFP Trust Fund project at both ULP Mjekës and KM Poliçan, 32 positions are occupied by women, representing 24% of the project workforce.

